

Testimony

Presented by Richard B. Myers, President Kansas State University  
Kansas House Appropriations Committee  
Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Good Morning Mr Chairman and Members of the Kansas House Appropriations Committee

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you this morning to inform you about Kansas State University, a unique university for Kansas. The nation's first operational land-grant university was founded in 1863, we will celebrate the 156<sup>th</sup> birthday of Kansas State University on February 16, 2019. The university's mission is to foster excellent teaching, research and service that develop a highly skilled and educated citizenry necessary to advance the well-being of Kansas, the nation, and the international community.

**Kansas State University has a state-wide reach:**

- K-State Polytechnic in Salina, merged in 1991
- Olathe Innovation Campus opened in 2011
- K-State Global Campus started in 1966
- College of Veterinary Medicine ranked in top one-half of the nation's veterinary colleges, 99% pass rate for National Licensing Exam ('18)
- Six K-State Research and Extension Centers located regionally around the state
- K-State Extension Offices in all 105 Kansas Counties

**Kansas State University:**

- Princeton Review again ranks K-State among top 10 in nation in multiple categories.
- Money magazine names university top value in Kansas for third year in a row.
- According to a survey by SmartAsset, Kansas State University is the top educational value in Kansas for the fourth year in a row. In the survey, the university's average starting salary of new graduates and student retention rates were tops in the Sunflower State.
- 96% of 2018 Bachelor's graduates are employed in their field or furthering their education. (January '19 survey results, K-State Career Placement Office)
- Kansas State University has been designated as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.
- Along with University partners developing the North Campus Corridor. 5,000 new jobs and \$450.0 million by 2035. This represents a 5% annual impact on the Manhattan Metropolitan Service Area (MSA). This reflects an economic output of \$2-3 billion over the first 25 years of the North Campus Corridor Development. *GAI Consultants June 2016 Report*

### **Higher education national view:**

States' financial support for higher education saw a slight growth between the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years, with more than a third of states decreasing their funding and another dozen increasing funding.

The Grapevine survey provides an early look each year at states' funding for higher education. Findings were down from a 4.2 percent increase last year and represents the lowest annual growth in the last five years.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/01/22/state-support-higher-ed-grows-16-percent-2018>

See map attached to this testimony.

### **Need for a robust higher education system in Kansas:**

A robust higher education system is a crucial factor in producing a well-prepared workforce. Increased investments in postsecondary education aligns with investments in P-12 schools as Kansas high school students become "college-ready" and transition into affordable quality postsecondary education. It is estimated that by 2020 more than two-thirds of jobs in Kansas will require education beyond high school. By investing in post-secondary education along with P-12, the State will have a robust educational pipeline designed to prepare a strong workforce that meets the needs of Kansas businesses.

State investment is critical for the university to fulfill its land-grant mission of instruction, research and service to the citizens of Kansas. Additional state support will enable the university to address increased operating costs without lessening extension, outreach, and research activities to the citizens and businesses of Kansas. Additionally, increased state investment will benefit current and future students who strive to attain a post-secondary degree. Demographic projections indicate that future enrollments will include more first-generation students who often need additional support financially, academically, and socially. Increased state funding will help position the university to meet these student's needs to ensure their success.

In closing Mr Chairman and Members of the Committee, a Federal Reserve Bank analysis showed that higher education is one of three key components needed for economic growth. The other two components are innovation through technology and the recruitment of new business to the state. Through the efforts of our faculty, staff and students, we continue to build economic partnerships across the region while our research and education programs add value to the people and the industries of our state. This legislative session we are requesting \$50.0 million from the state general fund to address the needs of higher education and Kansas State University.